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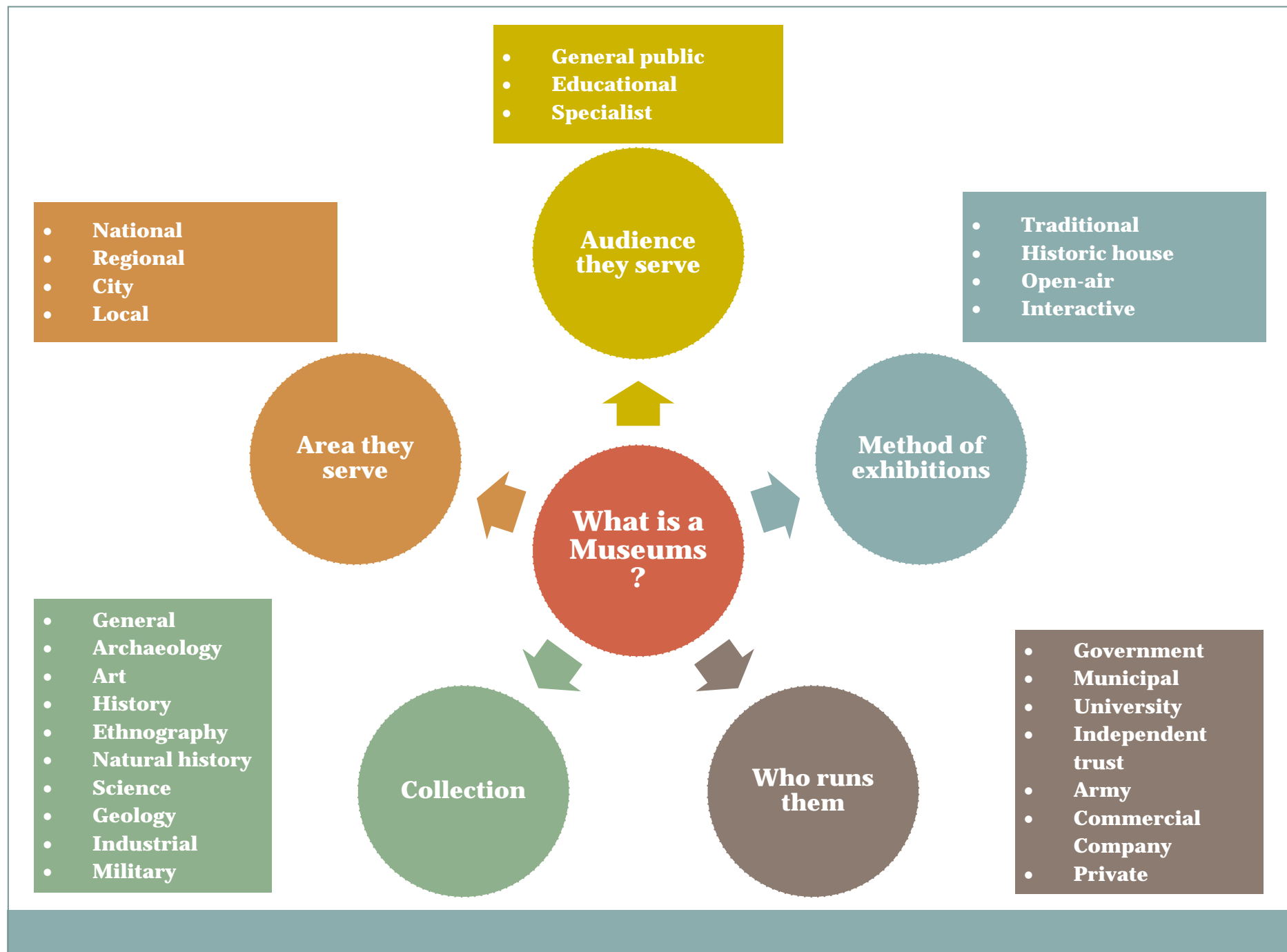
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# Hidden Histories and Cabinets of Curiosities



*RECONCILING HISTORIES AND VALUES  
WITH EXHIBITIONS IN A MILITARY  
MUSEUM CONTEXT*

*IAN MCKAY*



# Military Museums



- **Types of military museum**
  - Regimental collections
  - Museum formation
  - Orphaned collections - disbanded regimental associations
- **Military museum purpose**
  - Training – first museums Royal Arsenal Woolwich
  - Recruitment – Regimental
  - Identity
  - Sites of memory and remembrance
- **Museum Operations**
  - Some profession input
  - Volunteers
- **Regiment disbandment - What happens next?**

# Research Project



- The future of regimental museum in the UK in the wake of the British Army restructure.
- The overarching aims of the study :
  - ✦ Its function and role in the army and wider community.
  - ✦ The research will consider the different approaches that regimental museums take to presenting regimental history.
  - ✦ Analysing the museums' contributions to the regimental identity.
  - ✦ Looking ahead to considering their future as institutions of and sustainability.

# Hidden Histories & Cabinets of Curiosities

- **Hidden histories**
  - Didactic approach to presenting regimental histories
  - Top down regimental history heavily favouring the Commanding Officers
- **Cabinets of Curiosities**
  - Unstructured displays
  - Lack of information /explanation



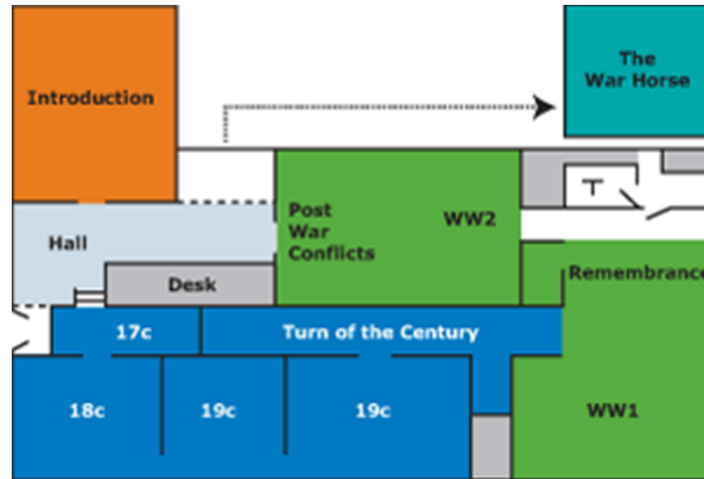
# Values

- Curator – member Of the regiment such as a Major
- “Museums Officer” – Museum professional
- Employee/Volunteer – ex-military
- Visitors:
  - Current or Ex–military
  - Special interest
  - General interest / family visitor



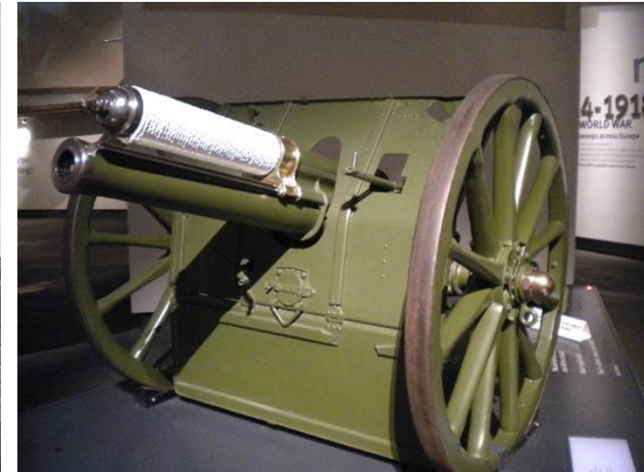


# Case Study 1: A Regimental Museum





# Case Study 2: Imperial War Museum North



# Questions

